

# Multi-State Training Exercise RAVEN makes history at SLO County's Camp Roberts

In an innovative move, Washington National Guard leadership have set out on a bold step toward their NTC rotation

By Lisa Cooksey  
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 81st Infantry Brigade and the Washington National Guard are making history. From June 14-28 approximately 5,000 soldiers and airmen trained at Camp Roberts, preparing the Washington National Guard's 81st Brigade for intensive Army scrutiny in 2004.

Army and Air National Guard units from California and nine other states tested the Washington National Guard's 81st Brigade's mettle as it prepared for its rotation through the infamous National Training Center (NTC) at Ft. Irwin, California in 2004.

In an innovative move, Washington National Guard leadership have set out on a bold step toward their NTC rotation. This three-week rotation represents the highest point in the training experience of armored combat units in the United States Army. This year's measured step is to master the deployment and re-deployment skills that the units will exercise in their move from Washington to California.

From its bases around Ft. Lewis and the Yakima Training Center in Washington, 150 rail cars and 350 commercial trucks brought the 81st Brigade's equipment to Camp



Roberts where they were joined by National Guard units from nine other states to train together as Task Force Raven. This rehearsal annual training involved the movement of over a thousand pieces of military equipment and marks the largest single rail movement in and out of Camp Roberts for one exercise in two decades.

This annual training exercise included a broad spectrum of tasks that the Brigade must perform when called to war, including mock battles with simulated laser gear indicating when personnel or equipment are hit. The 81st and its OPFOR fought force-on-force, wearing Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems (MILES), to replicate the NTC training. The

81st is one of 15 Enhanced Brigades—or E Brigades—in the nation. The Brigades usually have the most modern technology available in their inventory.

Besides the battle, there was a tactical road march from Camp Roberts to Fort Hunter Liggett wherein over 400 heavy and light vehicles along with thousands of soldiers made the trek up the tank trail that connects the two installations.

The 81st trained on several other tasks, including soldier readiness processing, rail and commercial truck loading and unloading operations, establishing rear unit bivouac areas, artillery and lanes training, and troop support operations.



81st Brigade of Washington State engages in simulated battle with California National Guard troops

TOP AND FAR LEFT: The convoy to Fort Hunter Liggett brings troops and equipment to a simulated battle designed to prepare troops for National Training Center rotation.

LEFT: An 81st Brigade tank preparing to engage in battle against California National Guard soldiers.

photos by Franco Federici

## Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum now open to public in San Luis Obispo

The cannon unearthed during the Centennial Project in San Luis Obispo will be a featured display when the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum presents its grand opening on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The museum is located in the Veterans Memorial Building, 801 Grand Av., San Luis Obispo. It will open at 1 p.m., following the ceremonies at Los Osos Valley Memorial Park.

The museum, which has been over two years in the making, was developed as a repository for the memorabilia of local veterans as well as an educational site for students and others unfamiliar with the country's military history.

Maps of wars and battles starting with World War I and progressing to the current Iraq war line the walls; they are surrounded by photographs taken during the period.

Display cases hold the contributions of local veterans, male and female, and illustrate the equipment and weapons used in each era. Mannequins wear uniforms of the various services and time periods. Video cassette players present stories of certain battles or equipment. A library contains books, magazines and videos of historical interest.



## Camp Roberts has a thriving hunting and fishing program

By Lisa Cooksey, Camp Roberts Public Affairs

The Camp Roberts Hunting and Fishing Program is managed cooperatively with the California Department of Fish and Game.

Fishing is conducted most weekends and holidays from late April to the last weekend in October. The hunting season has generally been divided into eight main hunting periods. These include the April turkey hunt, Memorial Day pig hunt, July archery hunt, August junior hunt, Fall big game hunt, a weekend October hunt, a weekend November hunt, and a December hunt.

Fish and Game stocks the Nacimiento River at several



LEFT: A family of wild pigs spotted alongside the Nacimiento River. ABOVE: Angler poses with freshly-caught trout as a convoy rolls past.

locations with catchable-size rainbow trout prior to the season opener and approximately every two weeks during the season as long as sufficient water is released from Lake Nacimiento.

All anglers and hunters enter and depart through the wildlife check station at Gate 3 (the East Garrison Exit). Depending on military training activities scheduled, anglers may either fish the entire river to Twin Bridges or are limited to the stretch of river between Low Water Bridge and the Highway 101 bridge northeast of the wildlife check station. All anglers are required to register and check out at the check station and report the number of fish taken. All

anglers must have a California State fishing license and must also purchase a Camp Roberts fishing permit. Hunters are required to register and check out daily at the wildlife check station and must report the number of game and area where it was taken. Restricted areas are posted with "No Hunting" signs.

Hunters must have a Camp Roberts hunting permit in addition to their California State hunting license, and the appropriate tags or stamps.

Hunters must all complete a "Weapons Declaration Form" and present their firearms to personnel at Gate 3 for inspection.

### 2002 Fish Harvest

Trout planted	9,300
Trout caught	3,433
Trout accounted for 97% of all fish caught in 2002. Squawfish and bass are the most commonly caught species other than trout.	

### 2002 Hunting Harvest

2,524 hunters participated in the 2002 hunting season, with 1,398 at the Fall big game hunt.	
Bucks	17
Antlerless	21
Dove	1,558
Quail	229
Turkey	1
Waterfowl	23
Rabbit	122
Pig	28

### 2003 Hunting Harvest, to date

Bucks	16
Antlerless	11
Dove	1,193
Trout	478
Rabbit	48
Pig	24
Remaining 2003 hunt dates:	
November 29-30	
December 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-31	

For more information call the taped information line at 805-238-8167 or go to [www.calguard.ca.gov/cprbts/huntfish2003.html](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cprbts/huntfish2003.html)

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE: More proud than ever to be an American

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After Sept. 11, and the decision to send troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, I think America took a different position and perspective on our military. We were proud to display our flag. We were proud to call America home. And, we were proud of the men and women that we asked to go in harm's way to protect and defend us. We rallied in our park. We showed our support at a barbecue held in honor of those being deployed. We stopped those soldiers on the street and shook their hands and thanked them for what they were doing. And, we hung yellow ribbons

on trees anxiously awaiting their safe return.

Often, time passes and we tend to forget that there are still men and women standing between us and those who wish to harm us. These soldiers, these civilians and these families are still our neighbors, our friends and our co-workers. We must continue to rally. We must continue to show support. And, we must continue to stop these folks on the street and thank them for what they do.

I am still proud to display the flag. I'm more proud than ever to be an American. I've never been more proud of those who serve our country. And, I am proud to recognize the men and

women of Camp Roberts and their families as a vital part of our community.

The City of Paso Robles extends its gratitude. We will never forget the sacrifices you have made and we will forever be in your debt.

There is an honored tradition and a rich history at Camp Roberts. There is a special relationship between the post and the City of Paso Robles. This community looks forward to continuing that relationship and we honor that fine tradition.

The City of Paso Robles is privileged to call the men and women of Camp Roberts our friends.

We are proud to honor our area Veterans

2823 Tuley Road, Paso Robles  
227-1428

We Appreciate Our Area Veterans

1628 Spring Street  
Paso Robles  
239-8429

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Children's Corner

911 Rolling Road, Paso Robles

Thank you to our Veterans for making this world a special place for us to grow up.

EXPANDING SOON!

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